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Cereus nycitalus, Link, or night-beauty, one of the night-flowering and but slightly fragrant species bloomed with me August 6th, and again on the 16th of the same month, when I observed that fructification had taken place in the former case. The ovary at this stage of development, when I had the whole plant photographed, was of a deep green, or, to be more exact, of a greenish-purple tint, with the scales of each spiniferous pulvillus tipped with bright pink, surrounded by white woolly hairs, and the whole capped by a persistent calyx.

The fruiting of this species, which inhabits Mexico, has not yet been reported to have taken place while in cultivation, either in this country or Europe. Five years ago I visited nearly all the public and private collections of Cactaceæ between the Atlantic coast and Mississippi River in quest of information regarding our night-flowering species, and every cultivator, amateur or botanist, met told me that this species had not been observed to perfect its berry. The same kind of information reached me from different parts of Europe, and even the late Dr. Geo. Engelmann disclaimed any knowledge of the subject referred to. All the works on Cactaceous plants, and I have consulted many, are silent on the same point, and therefore I watched with the greatest interest the progress the berry made.

My plant, a little more than thirty years old, has been in my possession for over eleven years, and flowers freely every season, late in July or August. The flower averages 10 inches in diameter and 12 in length, opens its petals about 7 o'clock, P.M., and, like its sister queen of flowers, *Cereus grandiflorus*, closes them again between the hours of two or three in the morning. There is something very fascinating about these vegetable cats and owls of Prof. Balfour; and I never before knew that some of the fruits were as short-lived as the flowers of the same. It is well known that some of the fruits of *Opuntia* and *Cereus*, when not disturbed, remain on the plants for one year.

My plant, which was out of doors when it blossomed and set its fruit, was taken back into the house on the 15th of October, and up to the 17th the berry remained of a dark green color.

Then it gradually and rapidly changed, so that by the 18th it had assumed the shade of a damson plum, light purplish-pink where exposed to the sun, and darker on the scales of the spiny cushions. October 19th the berry appeared to be of a yellowish-pink throughout its extent, and the skin in the sun-light presented a beautiful vitreous appearance, the same as in a ripe currant. October 20th the berry was pretty evenly colored with a light, delicate pink, or, in the language of the artist, Mrs. Annie N. Thomas, who made a beautiful sketch of it for me, it was of a delicate madder-pink.

The circumference of the berry around its thickest part was five and seven-eighths inches; the length, two and one-quarter inches, and diameter of the fleshy part without the spines only one inch and three-quarters; in thickness the berry measured two inches and one-quarter one way, and one and five-eighths the other. The berry had a slightly flattened shape, like that of an English walnut, the flat side, so to speak, being at a right angle with the long diameter of the stem.

By October the 25th the epidermis of the berry had wrinkled considerably, indicating over-ripeness, and had lost the beautiful pink shade, which now gave way to a yellowish tint. On the 29th it was so badly shrivelled and faded that I removed the specimen, with a portion of the stem, from the plant and placed it in glycerine, so that I might be enabled to exhibit it to the Torrey Club.

A word in regard to the fruit of the *Cereus grandiflorus*, which is as short-lived as the one under consideration. At my request, a friend sent me a berry of the *grandiflorus* from Cuba, five or six years ago. It was removed from the plant with a portion of the stem attached, before fully ripe, and was not quite six days in reaching its destination. A special messenger brought it to me on the arrival of the steamer in port. It was carefully packed in cotton and had not been handled or bruised in any way, but when I opened the package the fruit showed such evidence of decomposition that I could not have it painted. It was of a dark yellowish or chamois-color, of an ovoid shape and covered with spines, and woolly hair of a dirty yellowish shade. This fruit is edible and is sought after by man, birds and beasts.

The pulp has an aromatic flavor, and by some people the fruit is considered a delicacy when it can be obtained before the birds have feasted upon it.

The fruit of *Cereus serpentinus*, Lagasca, which is another of the night-flowering plants of the genus *Cereus*, will remain for a year on the plant if not molested. Mr. Peter B. Mead of Mamaroneck, who ripened its berry, informs me that it remained in color (which was of a deep pink) for about four months. The one which he forwarded to Dr. Engelmann was seven months old, and the doctor informed the sender that its seeds were not quite ripe within. The serpentine *Cereus* has now been fruited by Mr. Mead for three years in succession.

with R. E. KUNZÉ.

Calendula officinalis.—I was interested last September in seeing in a dense grass-sward by the road-side near a house, the golden heads of the potherb, or golden marigold, peeping out and seeming quite at home. Of course it was an estray; but the plant was not growing in any garden near by. I dare not say it was established, though it seemed to be.

Freehold, N. J.

S. LOCKWOOD.

Shortia.—Friends of botany will be sorry to learn of the dying out of *Shortia*. In a note just received from Mr. M. E. Hyams of Statesville, N. C., he informs me that it is dying out from its only locality, not six specimens being left.

E. S. MILLER.

Ilex Dahoan, Walt., var. **myrtifolia**, Chapman.—We have received a variety of this plant with yellow berries from Dr. T. F. Wood, of Wilmington, N. C., who remarks: "This is the first time I have ever seen this variety, although I had heard of its exist-